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DEPARTMENT FOR AF, AF/SPG, D, INR, DRL, PRM

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SUBJECT: SUDAN: RESPONSE TO HUMANITARIAN AND CHAD DEMARCHE

REF: A. STATE 59821

1B. STATE 60228

11. (SBU) Summary: Khartoum CDA Hume carried out ref A instructions on humanitarian administration concerns in Sudan with Vice President Ali Osman Taha at his Abuja hotel suite on April 15. As Hume went through each of the five demarche points, Taha listened without comment except to interject that reaction to the NGO legislation seems a bit precipitous since the law is yet to be implemented. CDA Hume also raised the issue of Chad with Taha. End Summary.

12. (SBU) Taha's initial overall comment was that if we succeed in getting things figured out here at the Darfur talks, all the concerns will be resolved. He added that he hoped the enhanced cease-fire document (being worked in small committee with the parties, AU Mediation, and USDEL) could be resolved on April 15. This would mean that the parties postpone major points which comprise the meat of the overall security arrangements text but permit putting the entire document on the table. Taha said he was planning to return to Khartoum if the cease-fire document is not soon ready and would return when needed.

13. (SBU) Regarding the five demarche points, Taha said he would have the Governor of South Darfur get in touch with us to explain the situation with the fuel deliveries and the Norwegian refugee organization. Hume reminded Taha that Deputy Secretary Zoellick had taken up the issue with him last November and that correct management of Kalma camp was important to the USG.

14. (SBU) On the NGO legislation, Taha complained mildly that the NGOs were conducting a psychological campaign against it even before it was promulgated. He acknowledged that the GOS had to be sensitive to NGO needs but they in return should be sensitive to GOS realities and be patient. Some of the provisions of the law were to fulfill commitments to the international community such as prevention of money laundering. Taha also wondered why the NGOs could not cooperate more directly with the GOS Humanitarian Relief Ministry, which in many areas had congruent responsibilities and interests. In any case, he said, "let us agree to a liberal interpretation". CDA Hume said Embassy Khartoum would pursue the issue with the Ministries in Khartoum.

15. (SBU) Taha said he would look into the issues related to the Status of Forces Agreement when he returned to Khartoum.

16. (SBU) He also committed to take up the visa issue with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to see what are the real problems.

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CHAD

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¶7. (SBU) CDA Hume raised the issue of Chad on April 10 and again on April 15. On April 10, Taha said that a Darfur peace agreement in Abuja would resolve the Chadian issue. On April 15, CDA Hume explained that he had no specific instructions to raise the issue, he would be remiss in not bringing it up. Hume said that no matter what the realities of the situation are, or would be in coming days, they inevitably would include implications and criticism for Sudan. Hume repeated and reinforced the point he had made in previous meetings with Taha about the need to absolutely assure the safety of the Darfur refugees in camps along the Chad border. He said that it would be inconceivable that the USG would be silent about the matter. The Vice President acknowledged that some of the rebels had moved to Chad from Sudan but that there had been no contact with them since. Even though "not involved", however, Taha did end by saying it was in the Government of Sudan's interest to have things under control.

¶8. (SBU) The meeting ended with Taha expressing his hope that Hume would go to the Chida Hotel and successfully work the cease-fire document so he could have a reason to stay longer.

CAMPBELL